

August 7, 1972

Dear Harold,

I have received your letter of 7/26. It is not easy for me to sift through the gratuitous insults, irrelevancies, and understandable anger in that word ~~salad~~ salad and figure out what you are saying. I will ~~stick~~ stick by my earlier opinion: it is not proper for you to try to restrict the distribution of something the Archives made ~~public~~ made public and pointed out to researchers, rather explicitly, three years ago.

Since you seem prepared to give me partial credit for some impending disaster which Wecht is about to bring ~~down~~ down upon us all, I want to say very clearly that I have no idea what you expect to happen. You have ~~asked~~ asked me ~~in~~ to think about what might happen and warned me about it several times, but if you have indicated what this disaster is going to be, it apparently didn't sink in. Wecht may well make any number of mistakes, but as far as I ~~know~~ know he is one of the more knowledgeable and competent of us. All the things you have told me about ~~him~~ him do not persuade me that he ~~isn't~~ can't do things carefully and rationally.

I realize this hasty letter will seem intemperate, and could easily result in a long rebuttal from you, but I suggest you save your energy; there is no need to aggravate anyone's feelings any more. If you would like to tell me more about this impending disaster - specifically, and calmly, I would be interested, of course. But my only specific question is this: what would you like me to do, or what do you think I could do, ~~then~~ to prevent this disaster? Earlier, I avoided getting in contact with Wecht again, at your suggestion. If you want me to write him now, I will do so. Otherwise, I won't, and I will consider the subject ~~closed~~ closed between us.

The new "Realist" has a long crazy piece by Mae Brussell, with lots of purported facts about the ~~2~~ Watergate incident. You ~~may~~ might be interested.

Thanks for telling me about Bob Smith's reward for the pistol ad. I happen to think identifying the source is worth the effort. About the F & I suit you mentioned in the same memo, (re: Odum photos); I Jim Lesar has mentioned this to me; I have asked him for the documents. Some time ago the CIA turned me down for the same items.

Sincerely,

*Paul*

PLH